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Narrative, Origins of Arkansas's State Flag

Willie K. Hocker

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U History of The Official Flag of Arkansas.

Early in 1912, The Pine Bluff Chapter, D. A. R., by a unanimous vote decided to present The new Battleship Arkansas with a "Stand of Colors," consisting of a United States flag, a Naval Battalion flag and an Arkansas state flag.

To Mrs. C. W. Pettigrew belongs The honor of having originated this plan of flag giving.

The acting regent of The chapter, Mrs. W. L. Dewoody, ^{printed} a flag committee consisting of Mrs. C. W. Pettigrew, Mrs. W. A. Taggart and Mrs. Frank Tomhinson. They wrote to The secretary of state asking for a copy of The official state flag. He replied: "Arkansas has no state flag."

The Pine Bluff Chapter D. A. R. then took the initiative in a movement to have The next General Assembly adopt a state flag. The flag committee caused to be published in The leading papers of The state ^{an article} asking artists and designers everywhere, particularly those of The state of Arkansas to submit designs appropriate for a state flag, to a committee of selection, consisting of not less than seven competent persons who would,

from the submitted designs select the one most appropriate for a state flag, should an appropriate design be found among those submitted. The designs were to bear no mark of identification, but be accompanied by a type written explanation of the design, and by a sealed unmarked envelope containing another explanation, and the name and address of the designer.

Mr. Carl W. Hodges, Secretary of State consented to become the custodian of the submitted designs, and to name the committee of selection.

The first committee met in the parlors of Hotel Marion, Little Rock, on Saturday, January - 1913. It consisted of the following named persons: - Maj. C. R. Breckinridge, chairman; Prof. J. J. Doynes, secretary; Mr. G. B. Rose, Gen. B. G. Green, Col. T. G. Cook, Dr. Junius Jordan, Mrs. Julia McAlmont Noel, and Mrs. Jo. Frauenthal. They made no selection, but recommended that a committee be appointed to search the records of Arkansas to see if there ever had existed a regularly adopted state flag. This committee failed to find any such record.

The second committee consisting of Mr. Carl W. Hodges, chairman; Gen. B. G. Green, Dr. Junius Jordan, Mr. G. B. Rose, Mrs. Julia McAlmont Noel, Mrs. Jo. Frauenthal, Mrs. Ellsworth and Miss Julia Warner, met in the office of the

secretary of state and from the sixty five submitted designs unanimously chose the design made by Miss Willie K. Hocker of Pine Bluff, a member of The U. C. R. chapter that had taken the initiative in the flag adoption measure.

On Saturday, February 14, 1913, Senator Phillips introduced a joint resolution to have the selected design adopted as Arkansas' official flag. The measure carried, and the following Tuesday, February 18, the House passed the resolution, and Arkansas had an official flag, regularly adopted by both houses of the General Assembly.

The design is a rectangular field of red, on which is placed a large white diamond, bordered by a wide band of blue, - national colors. Across the diamond is the word "Arkansas," (placed there by request of the committee,) and three blue stars, one above, two below the word. On the blue band are placed twenty five white stars.

Explanation of Design.

This design has in it much of Arkansas' history as given below:-

Arkansas is one of the United States, therefore the national colors are used.

The three blue stars typify the three nations, Spain, France and The United States to whom Arkansas has successively belonged. Their number, three, indicates that Arkansas was the third state carved from the Louisiana Purchase Territory, this purchase is the greatest act yet performed by the United States. The three stars also indicate the year (1803) when Arkansas became the property of the United States.

The twenty five white stars show that Arkansas was the twenty fifth state in the order of admission to the Union.

The state came into the Union paired with another state, (Michigan) This is shown by the pair of stars on the lower angle of the blue band.

Arkansas contains the only known diamond mine within the possessions of the United States therefore—Arkansas should be known as:— "The Diamond State."

Signed —
(Miss) Willie L. Hocker,
Designer of the State Flag of Arkansas.

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three stars also indicate the year (1803) when Arkansas
became the property of the United States.

The twenty-five white stars show Arkansas was
the twenty-fifth in the order of admission to the
Union; she came in paired with another state, this
is shown by the pair of stars at the lower edge of
the flag.

One of the conspicuous features of this
design is the diamond. Arkansas contains the only
known diamond mine within the possessions of the
United States, therefore - Arkansas should be known
as "The Diamond State."

Box 584,

Designed by -
Miss Willie K. Hooker.
Pine Bluff, Ark.